

# Chemical Emergencies

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## Chemical Exposure – First Aid Response Actions:

1. If face and/or eyes are affected, immediately IRRIGATE with eyewash continuously for 15 minutes.
2. REMOVE clothing if contaminated.
3. FLUSH contaminated skin with large amounts of water for 15 minutes.
  - Use safety shower or drench hose.
4. Contact NIA IRP Safety Office (410-558-8636) and Security (BRC x3000).
5. Seek medical assessment. After regular work hours, get MEDICAL ATTENTION at BAYVIEW Emergency Room (or nearest hospital's emergency room if off site) for all chemical exposures resulting in injury.
6. File ECOMP injury report form at [www.ECOMP.dol.gov](http://www.ECOMP.dol.gov)
7. NOTE: Safety Office will contact you and/or supervisor for follow up.

## In the event of a chemical spill:

1. Notify personnel in the room/area of the spill to evacuate immediately.
2. Close all doors to the room/area of the spill and evacuate.
3. Report spill to NIA IRP Safety Office (410-558-8636) and Security (BRC x3000; MedStar Harbor 410-350-3333).
4. Remove any clothing that may have come in contact with the chemical and wash contaminated parts of the body with copious amounts of water for 15 minutes. Use eyewash for splashes to eyes/face and safety shower/drench hose for other body parts.
5. **Do not attempt to clean mercury spills. Contact the Safety Office immediately.**
6. Do not reenter the room/area until the appropriate fire, safety, or security officials have determined that the area is safe to re-enter.

## Chemical Spill Response – Routine Situations

1. Check for exposure to skin.
2. Initiate first aid, if needed.
3. Do not track spill through facility.
4. Turn off gas burners.
5. Do not attempt to clean mercury spills. Contact the Safety Office (410-558-8636) immediately.
6. Do not clean up any chemical spill unless you are familiar with the chemical and know the correct procedures. Refer to the Safety Data Sheets or contact the Safety Office if you have any questions.

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7. If you are unsure of the correct procedures, if the spill is too large for one person to handle or if you do not feel comfortable performing the task, call NIA IRP Safety Office (410-558-8636) and Security (BRC x3000; MedStar Harbor 410-350-3333) for assistance.
8. Protect yourself: Put on appropriate protective clothing (gloves, safety goggles or glasses, and lab coat). If spill cleanup requires respiratory protection, contact the NIA IRP Safety Office immediately. Do not attempt to clean up the spill.
9. Cover spills with absorbent material/spill pillows/spill mats.
10. If necessary clean spill area with appropriate neutralizing material.
11. Discard waste and clean up material as hazardous waste.
12. For an afterhours spill that an investigator cannot clean up, close the lab. Call Security and ask them to cordon off the area.
13. File an Incident Report with the NIA IRP Safety Office (410-558-8636), BRC 04C216.

## **Special Case Spill Response – Large volumes, irritating vapors, confined spaces**

1. Check for exposure to skin.
2. Initiate first aid, if needed.
3. Turn off gas burners.
4. Do not track spill through the facility.
5. Evacuate the immediate area by activating YELLOW lab alarm box.
6. Place absorbent material/spill pillows/spill mats on or around spill, if time allows, and only if it does not place you in immediate danger.
7. Leave room and close door behind you to contain spill.
8. Place absorbent material/spill pillows/spill mats outside of door to prevent the spill from leaking into hallway.
9. Post person by door to prevent re-entry.
10. Immediately contact NIA IRP Safety Office (410-558-8636) and Security (BRC x3000; MedStar Harbor 410-350-3333) for spill cleanup assistance or additional spill kit supplies.
11. Do not attempt to clean up a mercury spills or special case situations!
12. For an afterhours spill that an investigator cannot clean up, close the lab. Call Security and ask them to cordon off the area.
13. File an Incident Report with the NIA IRP Safety Office (410-558-8636), BRC 04C216.

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## **Life threatening chemical spills – *Immediately dangerous to life and health (IDLH)***

1. Evacuate the immediate area by activating YELLOW lab alarm box.
2. Contact NIA IRP Safety Office (410-558-8636) and Security (BRC x3000; MedStar Harbor 410-350-3333). Inform them of the spill and tell them the spill location and the name of chemical spilled.
3. Only if situation is life threatening, ask for a **CODE ORANGE** announcement.
4. Afterhours if any spill is an imminent hazard or rapidly spreading, you may call the Maryland Department of Environment (MDOE) Baltimore HAZMAT Emergency Response at **1-866-633-4686**. (Only call this number if it is an emergency situation). They will contain and secure the area but will not do clean up. Also call Security to report the spill.
5. Mercury spills **are not** considered IDLH and do not require a call to the MDOE Baltimore HAZMAT Emergency Response Team. Mercury spills do require a call to Security.
6. Any area cordoned off may not be entered until either the Safety Officer or the MDOE Baltimore HAZMAT Emergency Response has declared the area is safe.

## **Universal Code Emergency:**

1. When you hear “CODE ORANGE” and the location, if you are on the same floor as the dangerous spill, move to another floor.
2. Do not re-enter the area until it has been cleared by either the Safety Officer or the MDOE Baltimore HAZMAT Emergency Response.